DOCUMENT RESUME

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TITLE	A Discussion Guide for UnCommon Knowledge: The "Voices of Girls" Documentary. [Videotape].
INSTITUTION	AEL, Inc., Charleston, WV.; ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools, Charleston, WV.
SPONS AGENCY	National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA.; Office of Educational Research and Improvement (ED), Washington, DC.
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NOTE	0p.; Film by John Nakashima and Charles "Chip" Hitchcock. For more information on the Voices of Girls project, see the Web site: http://www.ael.org/eric/voices/.
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ABSTRACT

Rural and Urban Images: Voices of Girls in Science, Mathematics, and Technology was a 3-year project that began in fall 1995 with a group of sixth-grade girls and followed the same girls through eighth grade. The project took place in two West Virginia counties, but this videotaped documentary features its implementation in rural McDowell County only. Following decades of job loss, McDowell County is economically depressed, and over 80 percent of school children qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. Project participants were 36 girls from three elementary schools. Scenes from the project's first year show the girls in monthly hands-on science and mathematics workshops. During the second and third years, the girls interacted in the workshops with mentors who had careers in science, mathematics, or technology. During the final year, the girls met regularly with school sponsors and were involved in designing and completing community service learning projects. The documentary is a candid look at girls attending school in a poor rural community. The girls speak with a variety of voices, from the perspectives of advantage and disadvantage, and give voice to their frustrations, triumphs, and dreams--and their pride in being involved in this project--as they grow up in a community that must develop the talents of all its young people. Enclosed with the videotape is a brief discussion guide that describes the project and the documentary and lists seven discussion questions. The videotape running time is approximately 57 minutes. (SV)

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